

The YAC

A Newsletter for Iowa Library Staff Who Work with Youth and Children



May/June 2018



Upcoming Events:

- [Children's Book Week](#) - April 30-May 6
- [Choose Privacy Week](#) - May 1-7
- June is [GLBT Book Month](#)
- September is [Library Card Sign-Up Month](#)
- [Banned Books Week](#) - September 23-29
- [ICON Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention](#) in Cedar Rapids - October 5-7
- [Teen Read Week](#) - October 7-13
- [YALSA's Young Adult Services Symposium](#) (Salt Lake City) - November 2-4



Occasions for Quick Displays/Program Themes in the Coming Months

May:

Author Birthdays:

- Leo Lionni - 5
- Gary Paulsen - 17
- Lillian Hoban - 18
- Margaret Wise Brown - 23
- Mo Willems - 24

Other Special Days:

- May is "Get Caught Reading" Month (<http://www.getcaughtreading.org/>)
- Two Different Colored Shoes Day - 3
- Star Wars Day - 4 (<http://www.starwars.com/may-the-4th>)
- Lost Sock Memorial Day - 9
- Chicken Dance Day - 14

June:

Author Birthdays:

- Cynthia Rylant - 6
- Maurice Sendak - 10
- Chris Van Allsburg - 18
- Eric Carle - 25

Other Special Days:

- June is Audiobook Month
- Yo-Yo Day (birthday of Donald Duncan) - 6
- Yarn Bombing Day - 11
- International Picnic Day - 18
- Summer Solstice (longest day of the year) - 21

July:

Author Birthdays:

- Jean Craighead George - 2
- E. B. White - 11
- Beatrix Potter - 28
- J K Rowling - 31

Other Special Days:

- Second Half of the Year Day - 1
- Etch a Sketch Day - 12
- Moon Walk (Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin) in 1969 -- 20
- Paperback Book Day - 30

August:

Author Birthdays:

- Walter Dean Myers - 12
- Brian Pinkney - 18
- Allen Say - 28

Other Special Days:

- Coloring Book Day - 2 (<http://www.coloringbookday.com/>)
- Potato Day - 19
- Banana Lovers Day - 27

Early Literacy Skills Review – Print Awareness & Print Motivation

Print Awareness and Print Motivation are two very basic pre-reading skills. [The other skills are Vocabulary, Narrative Skills, Letter Knowledge and Phonological Awareness.]

Print Motivation is simply an interest in books and reading. Children will develop this skill if parents and caregivers read to them frequently and if reading time is an enjoyable experience.

You can build this skill in storytimes by choosing books that are funny and interactive (with repeated phrases, etc.) and by reading with lots of enthusiasm and expression. And don't hesitate to stop reading a book that doesn't grab their attention.



Encourage parents to keep books where children can look at them whenever they wish – beginning with board books for the youngest pre-readers. Remind them that reading the same favorite book over and over is perfectly natural – and it builds the child's desire to be able to read for himself.

Examples of great titles for Print Motivation: *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats, *Good Night Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann, *How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?* by Jane Yolen, and *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina.

Print Awareness is noticing print all around and knowing how to handle books. This precedes actual letter learning. At storyhour, you might casually introduce terms like "cover," "author," and "title" as you read. Occasionally run a finger under the text to show the connection between the print and what you are saying and encourage caregivers to copy this practice.

Above all, remind parents to show children that reading is an integral part of their lives – including reading recipes, grocery ads, etc. Again, simply allowing children to handle books is key for building these pre-literacy skills.

Examples of great titles for print awareness: *Bunny Cakes* by Rosemary Wells, *Sheep in a Jeep* by Nancy Shaw, *Lilly and the Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes, *Are You My Mother?* by P. D. Eastman, and *One Duck Stuck* by Phyllis Root.

For more about early literacy skills and resources for teaching them to parents/caregivers, see the State Library of Iowa website at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/early-child-lit/earlyliteracyinlibraries/earlyliteracy> and the National Institute for Literacy resources at <http://www.cpacinc.org/hot-topics/literacy/national-institute-for-literacy-resources/>.

Millennials in the Library

Millennials are now grown-ups - about age 18 - age 35. For our purposes, there are basically two groups of millennials - those with children and those without. In youth services we are concerned with that first group - those who are now parents! What are those young parents looking for from the library?

- 1) Storyhours during evening or weekend hours:

These are times when working parents can spend quality time with their child. Libraries might try offering special storytimes for Dads with babies or toddlers. Try brief storytime presentations (say 15 minutes) that leave time for free play and chatting with other parents (provide blocks, items for sorting, etc.).

- 2) Parenting resources:

There are over 4 million "mommy" blogs on the Internet. Friends are constantly posting about the achievements of their kids on Facebook and Instagram. It would be easy to be overwhelmed with advice and easy to feel that you don't measure up as a parent. The library can provide quality parenting books & materials, programs for new parents, and displays about children's health, early literacy skills, the importance of reading to babies, and so on.

- 3) Make an area of your library an "unplugged" space. This age group is so connected that they sometimes appreciate a place to read with their child or play a game without digital distractions.

Have You Tried?

I frequently hear about how difficult it is to attract tweens and teens to the library and to provide successful programs for that age group. When librarians talk about success with this age group, they mention serving food, making teens feel truly welcome, and asking teen leaders for help.

Here are a few ideas/tips (gathered from several webinars and articles) that you may not have tried at your library:

- If you have a simple "Create Space" with art supplies, add a **typewriter** (donated?). Teens will have fun with this novelty. They can create greeting cards, journals, etc.
- In your "create space," provide **coffee sleeves** to be decorated with inspirational messages to share.
- Provide assorted **post-it notes** for teens to decorate and create a fun display on a poster board.
- Activity idea: "I care so much, I made a sign." Protest marches abound these days. Have teens create **signs** with a *positive* message about what they care about (the environment, minority rights, etc.).
- For big events, play on teens' "fear of missing out" - **FOMO** - through clever promotion and a goofy or trendy theme. Zombies have been a good theme . . . and escape rooms So what is the next big thing? Ask your teens!
- Program idea: **Flashback Fridays**. Friday after school is a great time to play a vintage board game or watch old movies.
- Program idea: "Life Hacks for Teens" or "**Adulting 101**." Many schools have cut the old "home economics" programs from their curriculum. Why not offer basic training for teens on topics such as healthy eating (and simple cooking -- "Beyond Ramen"), basic car maintenance, time management (try out Dave Crenshaw's "The Myth of Multitasking" exercise -- <https://davecrenshaw.com/myth-of-multitasking-exercise/>), etiquette, stress management (yoga, meditation, etc.) organizing your living space, and so on. Talk about things like "how to rent an apartment," "sharing a kitchen with roommates," "how to sew on a button," and so on. Invite guest speakers or incorporate some short topics into other programs.
- For more creative ideas, check out the recording of "Teen Service without Teen Spaces" featuring the youth services staff of Marion Public Library on NCompass Live: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive/ncarchivelist.asp>

Odds & Ends



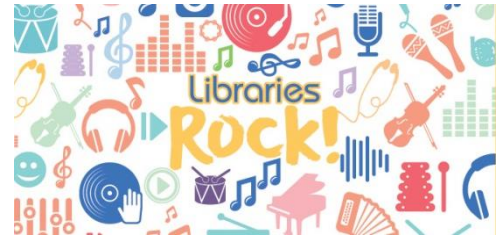
Future Cooperative Summer Library Program General Themes:

- 2019: A Universe of Stories
- 2020: Fairytales, Mythology, Fantasy
- 2021: Animals
- 2022: Change the World/Social Justice/Unity/Kindness/Inclusion/Change/Diversity/Equity/Make a Difference/Embrace Different Cultures

☀️ Too Small for a Maker Space? Watch this short video - "**Creativity in a Box**" -- from Nebraska's Big Talk for Small Libraries online conference:

<http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/previous-conferences/2018-presentations/creativity-in-a-box/>

☀️ Reminder: **The Iowa Cooperative Summer Library Program website** (with ideas shared by Iowa Library Staff) has moved to the State Library website at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/libraries-rock-2018>. Please share *your* ideas by sending them to merri.monks@iowa.gov.



☀️ [Sammy's Guide to Internet Safety](#) is a handy interactive way for kids to learn about protecting their personal information online, cyber bullying, and so on.

☀️ Reminder: The State Library is offering sets of the **All Iowa Reads** titles for use by library book clubs. This includes the titles for youth:

- Young Adults -- *Girl in the Blue Coat* (1 set of 10 copies)
- Children -- *Ghost* (1 set of 10 copies)

Read more about these selections at <http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org/air/home> -- and contact your [District Office](#) to schedule a set for your discussion group.

☀️ Ideas for doing a "**Poetry Walk**" with grade-school age children: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/literature-based-teaching-science-poetry-walks>. This article includes some suggestions for poetry books that appeal to this age group.


☀️ 2018 **Teen Read Week** will be celebrated **October 7-13**. This year's theme is: "It's Written in the Stars...READ." Visit the website at <http://teenreadweek.ning.com/> for more information. The 2018 Teens' Top Ten nominees were announced recently. Check out the 25 nominees on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1idQX77Xj5k&feature=youtu.be>.

☀️ Apply to be a part of YALSA's **Future Ready with the Library** (IMLS funded project). The goal of this project is to teach staff from small, rural libraries about teens, community engagement, connected learning, and college and career readiness. More

specifically, participants will learn how to help middle schoolers start to think about how they can turn their interests into a career.

More details are available on the Future Ready project website:

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/future-ready-library>. The application period **ends May 15**.

 **"Summer YA Announcements 2018"** will be presented on May 8th at 1:00 pm. This webinar will cover new titles from Bloomsbury, Macmillan Children's Publishing, Sourcebooks Fire, Sky Pony, and Albert Whitman. It is sponsored by Booklist. Register [here](#).

